

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting And Annual Parish Assembly of the Council

Date: 12^h May 2022 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman)
Cllr Kieron Black
Cllr Andrew Bays
Cllr Angela Harris
Cllr Tom Thacker (HCC)
In Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk)
Apologies: Cllr Graham Falconer (BDBC_

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Falconer.

2. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr Cox formally stood down as Chairman. Cllr Black presided as Chair and thanked Cllr Cox for the past year of service. Cllr Black proposed and Cllr Bays seconded that Cllr Cox be re-elected. Cllr Cox resumed chairing the meeting.

Cllr Cox proposed and Cllr Bays seconded that Cllr Black be re-elected. Unanimously agreed.

The Clerk requested that any material changes to register of interests be notified as a matter of priority. Cllr Bays asked for a form to be sent to him.

Clerk

Members of the parish council expressed their thanks to Sally Burch for her dedicated service and hard work for the council over the past years.

Cllr Cox reported that he had not yet received any interest from residents wishing to be co-opted on to the council.

3. Presentation of Achievements and Financial Report for 2020/21

See Appendix A for the Chairman's report. It was agreed that the Cllr Cox would circulate the presentation to Ashy PC following the meeting and request any questions.

4. Reports from Borough and County Councillors

See Appendix A.

5. Police report

See Appendix B for a report from PCSO Joshue Revett.

6. **Climate Change report and update**
See Appendix A.
7. **Public discussion and question**
There were no members of the public present.
8. **Planning applications**
22/01013/HSE – Tree Tops, Cross Lane Ashmansworth. No objections. **Clerk**
9. **Financial payments and insurance renewal**
- a) Payments Approval –the Clerk presented the financial statements (Appendix B). **Clerk**
The payments were unanimously agreed, as was payment of an invoice for use of the village hall which had been erroneously omitted from the statement. Clerk to process. .
- b) Insurance renewal - the Council approved policy renewal of £384.60 with Hiscox Insurance Company Limited. **Clerk**
10. **Date of next meeting**
The meeting closed at 9.25 pm. Next meeting on 21st July at 7.30 pm.

Appendix A

Ashmansworth
Parish Council




ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

12th MAY

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Ashmansworth
Parish Council



Annual Parish Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Apologies
- Elections
- Presentation on Achievements and Financial Report
- Report from Borough / County Councillors
- Police Report
- Update on Climate Emergency
- Public discussion and questions

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Ashmansworth
Parish Council



Parish Council Elections for 2022/23

- Election of Chairman
- Election of Vice-chairman
- Parish council election in May 2022
- Possible co-option of councillor

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Parish Council




Who were we in the past year?

• Alan Cox	Chairman
• Kieron Black	Vice-chairman
• Andrew Bays	
• Sally Burch – stood down, 5/5/22	
• Angela Harris	
• Sadie Owen	Clerk

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Ashmansworth
Parish Council



Our Role

- Cover villages of Ashmansworth and Crux Easton.
- Lowest level of democracy.
- Provide guidance on Planning Applications.
- A link to Borough and County Councils on what is planned and what we want.
- Focus of local interest.
- Non-political.
- One of the smallest in the county, limited budget.
- Thanks to all members for their hard work!

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What do we do?

- We meet every ~8 weeks, back to physical meetings in the village hall after Covid.
- We had 11 new Planning Applications in last year. Of these, 8 were approved and 3 are still pending. Also 3 tree applications approved.
- Village details on new improved Website.
- We have email addresses for council business.

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What more do we do?

- Ashy-PC very popular, allowing any member to email everyone – no spam!
- Lengthsman repaired stiles, cleared footpaths and cut hedges. Need more tasks for this year.
- Greatly appreciate Neighbourcare Covid support though much less call on this now.
- Budget to spend our Precept to benefit Parish.
- We welcome Svitlana, Kristina and Kiril who have joined us from Ukraine.

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Concerns and Progress

- Access to Newbury Newtown Road Recycling, now allowed, but costs £7 per visit.
- Resolution of planning applications taking too long, though better than earlier.
- Taxi-share is working again.
- Verges cut for autumn only, to avoid spring flowers. No complaints so far!
- Should stiles allow access to dogs? If so, who pays?
- We would like residents of Crux Easton to use more of our services, Taxi-share, village hall, table tennis...

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Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- We are delighted that Ashmansworth will be celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee with a Street Party with Hog Roast, children's party, entertainment, games...
- Sunday 5th June at the Village Hall, free entry
- Many thanks to Kieron Black for organising
- Also to Sebastian and Flora Lyon for providing commemorative mugs for all our children

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Clerk's Report 1

- The parish council kept its precept at the same level last year, despite continued cut backs and increases from both county and borough.
- We had local elections this year and for the first time in a long time we have a vacancy on the parish council and I would encourage anyone with an interest to please contact me for further details.
- As well as some donations, with climate change very much in mind, the parish council purchased some infra-red cameras this year for assistance in identifying poor areas of insulation within your homes. Please contact us if you would like to use them.

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Clerk's Report 2

- Once again, the lengthsman has undertaken some good work around the parish, repairing stiles, clearing footpaths and cleaning the signs and benches.
- Our mowing contractors remain the same and we hope that they continue with the great work that they have carried out to date.
- We are hoping that Covid is fading into the past now and as such are pleased to be back meeting in person, and look forward to welcoming you to our future meetings.

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Financial Report

- Income was as expected but less than last year due to ongoing cuts.
- Income of £285 in BDBC Grants & £4,123 Precept.
- Expenditure roughly as expected.
- Reserves have decreased by a small amount. Opening balance £4,783, closing £3,802.
- Annual return figures are not yet available – audit booked for later in the month, May 24th.

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The Year Ahead

- The Precept for 2022/23 has increased from last year's amount by £127, to a total of £4,250, to counter the effect of lost BDBC funds.
- This is in line with budget spend predictions and will also allow the council to make some small donations.
- The Lengthsman scheme will continue for 2022/23 and we again have a budget of £1,000 to allocate to local works. Please do let us know about any suggested tasks.

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Election

- After last week's election, Conservative majority now reduced to 4.
- Sam Carr re-elected with a clear majority, with 55% of votes cast
- Graham Falconer is chair of Audit and Accounts.
- John Izett is portfolio holder for Property and Finance.

Planning Issues

- Graham now a full-time member of the Development Control Committee - helpful!
- Shortage of planning expertise across whole UK.
- Local applications affecting us include Highclere, Wash Water, Sandleford, Bishops Green, Kingsclere
- Local Plan still aiming to get a 5 year land supply.
- Highclere and East Woodhay are working on Neighbourhood Plans. We don't need this due to our Conservation Area, with a nil target for new houses.

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County Council Report

- Councillor Tom Thacker, new leader Rob Humby
- 3rd most populous county – 1.4 million
- Budget £2.4 billion includes schools, roads, residential homes, country parks...
- Council tax up 2.99%, including 1% for social care.
- Capital programme includes £109m on school buildings, £136m on roads and bridges, £109m on integrated transport, £95m on buildings, £33m on decarbonisation... over 3 years

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County Council

- Climate Change – active to improve resilience and mitigation against temperature rise of up to 2°C
- HCC's own emissions already reduced by 43%, aiming for neutrality by 2050.
- Trying to resolve issues with access to HWRC. Government consulting on improvements including DIY waste. We want free access to all sites.
- Concern at potholes and poor white lining.
- Lengthsman support continues 👍

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Police Report

- We have now met our latest PCSO, Joshua Revett
- He points out that we are relatively peaceful, on the boundary with Andover and close to Thames Valley
- No major issues this year – 2 minor vehicle incidents
- Concern at visits by Nottingham Knockers, including last week.
- He says don't deal with them but do report on 101.
- Management of shotgun licences.

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Climate Emergency

- Basingstoke & Hampshire declared a climate emergency
- Upgrading their offices and staff working from home
- We have set up a group called “**Basingstoke Area Sustainability**” with zoom meetings and by email
- Impact of carbon emissions on climate change – for us, fuel prices, house heating and vehicle use...
- Impact of plastic use, need less packaging, better recycling
- Reduction of food waste, reuse of clothing, repair cafe etc
- Avoid exporting emissions – China making products with coal-fired electricity, oil based shipping and flights...

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House Heating

- Today, most use oil and/or log burners; no mains gas
- Will be discouraged/banned due to emissions + pollution
- Propose use of heat pumps:
 - Air pumps less efficient but cheaper and easier to install
 - Ground pumps more efficient but more expensive to install, needing large trenches or holes to bury pipes
 - Neither provides water as hot as required so ideally needs underfloor heating or some other boost
- Graham has helped a resident get a Heat Pump installed by Vivid – many thanks

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House Insulation

- Have bought FLIR infra -red cameras that fit onto smart phones – Android or Apple
- Best used when cold outside, to show up poor insulation.
- Available free for all to borrow
- Grants for insulation may help some.
- Biggest problems for Listed Buildings! Need government to relax rules.

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Electricity

- May have solar panels on some houses but difficult on thatch or listed buildings.
- Need large batteries for storage of off peak or solar since most use of electricity after dark.
- Helps EV charging. Hope costs will fall.
- Concern at high fuel prices. May encourage insulation improvements, solar panels etc?

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Wind Turbines – allowed here?



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Travel

- Encouraging use of electric vehicles as diesel and petrol phased out.
- Concern at EV range for long distance travel.
- Chargers being installed across the country.
- We are fortunate that nearly all our houses have off-street parking – major problem in other areas.
- Fly less unless new developments, eg hydrogen or “bio-fuels” made from green hydrogen.

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Farming Emissions

- There may be restrictions on methane emissions, especially from cattle
- There may also be restrictions on nitrates, especially on muck -spreading: delaying planning
- Already see higher costs of fuel and fertiliser
- We await developments on tractors and HGVs, possibly using hydrogen rather than batteries?

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Plastic & Recycling

- Concern at excessive use of plastic causing pollution
- Much plastic in not recycled by BDBC, even when marked as recyclable
- Hope new developments will allow local recycling of **all** types of plastic
- Consumers should minimise plastic use and pressure shops and suppliers to use less packaging

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Who does what?

- Individuals can choose to be more careful
- Government likely to enforce this with persuasion, legislation and taxation – tax oil and gas like petrol?
- Less impact on local councils except to reduce own use.
- High fuel prices (gas, electricity and petrol) already enforcing efficiency.
- Research should create new opportunities, especially for UK manufacture, and market forces should cut prices.
- Hopefully home heating and electric vehicles will become more affordable!

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Risks and Opportunities

- Very expensive to green every existing house
- Subsidies impractical if impact nearly everyone!
- Avoid buying everything from China
- Research needed for new technologies + cheaper:
 - batteries and solar panels using less precious/scarse metals
 - less obtrusive wind turbines
 - hydrogen generation and conversion into bio -fuels
 - ...

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Conclusions

- Thanks to all for their hard work
- We hope to recruit a fifth councillor to replace Sally.
- We are enjoying meeting up in the hall again!
- We welcome suggestions and assistance from everyone, especially for Community Enhancement
- What more would you like us to do?

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Appendix B

Ashmansworth Parish Council Police Report

Apologies for not being able attend the meeting.

Ashmansworth is a village that is located in the Basingstoke and Deane district in Hampshire with the neighbouring village of Crux Easton. This resides close to both the Thames Valley border of Newbury and Test Valley border of Andover.

Furthermore, this police report will outline the last 365 days of occurrences involved in and around the village.

Road Related Incidents x2

- Broken down vehicle on blind bend. No Further Action.
- White van has stopped blocking half the lane, unsure if RTC has happened or not. No Further Action.

Concern for Safety

- SOS message pinged from a mobile by mistake; officers attended and found everything to be ok as the person's phone had been malfunctioning.

Suspicious Person

- Unknown person trying to sell items to them on their doorstep. A Man claiming to be an ex-offender from Middlesbrough selling household goods. Police advice is that these people are called Nottingham Knockers who tend to sell miscellaneous household items for inflated prices. They will often say they are on some kind of scheme from getting out of prison or something similar.

Please warn your neighbours, particularly elderly or vulnerable neighbours, not to open the door to strangers, buy, or sell on the doorstep.

- **Do Not** deal with Nottingham Knockers.
- **NEVER** allow Nottingham Knockers into your home.
- **Do Not** pay CASH/CARD on the doorstep.

Be aware of Nottingham Knockers visiting your neighbourhood and report any such activity immediately to police. By doing this, you may well prevent another person falling into the cycle of repeated visits and cash hand overs. No suspect identified.

Firearms x4

- Management of those who are holders of Shotgun licences.

Please continue to report to the police if you believe to be a life threatening or dangerous situation at the time call 999. If you do not need an officer straight away call 101 or make a report via Hampshire Constabulary. Report any suspicious activity that includes people and cars, due to being quite a rural location please report any rural crime such as theft from farms and hare coursing as that is a priority.

Appendix C

Financial Statement: Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date: 12/05/2022

Balances:

Statement No: 12/05/22 Balance	Balance after reconciliation – 12/05/22
£4,333.40	£4,011.84

Payments since last meeting date:

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
09/03/22	1 & 1 internet	Email usage	£3.80
22/03/22	1 & 1 internet	Email usage	£28.80
TOTAL			32.60

New items for payment

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary Apr	£144.48
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary May	£144.48
TOTAL			288.96

Receipts since last meeting date:

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			0.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00